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Assembly California Legislature

JUL 01 1998
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ROY ASHBURN

ASSEMBLYMAN, THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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Natural Resources
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Mental Health

MEMBER:

Co-Vice Chairman,
Local Government Caucus

June 26, 1998

Mr. Rick Breitenbach
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

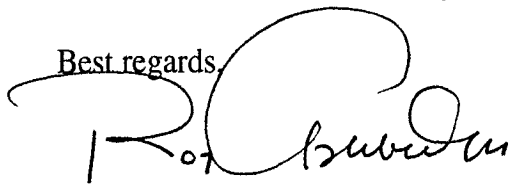
I understand the importance of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program as it continues to work on solutions aimed at solving the critical water management and environmental problems affecting the Bay-Delta System. Selecting the best solution that balances the needs and concerns of all agricultural, urban, economic, and environmental interests involved, while realizing the goals of the program is a significant task that will affect California's future.

CALFED recognizes that the problems of the Bay-Delta are inter-related and identifies several alternatives for improving the Bay-Delta System and California's water situation. However, the draft PEIS/EIR does not address some factors that will impact the economy and the people of the southern San Joaquin Valley. These factors include water use efficiency proposals that are intended to reduce both urban and agricultural demand. Factors such as agricultural land retirement, increased urban water conservation at the levels identified in the draft document and the proposed clearinghouse for water transfers would have devastating impacts on Kern County's economic base. There should be no redirected impacts as stated by CALFED. Kern County must have additional water supplies, not just re-use and reallocation of our current supplies.

Californians need more water. The population of California continues to increase, and so will the need for not just their drinking water, but for water to grow their food and fiber. Everyone's livelihood depends on an abundant, reliable supply of water. We need to find an affordable way to fix the delta so that it can supply our needs while improving its ecosystem.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the development of CALFED'S program on behalf of the 32nd Assembly District.

Best regards,



Roy Ashburn



Assembly
California Legislature

ROY ASHBURN

ASSEMBLYMAN, THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT
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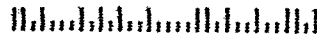
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